

**(Washington, DC)** Today, Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) introduced a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Decade of Action for Road Safety. This resolution expresses the House of Representatives' support for the Decade of Action and encourages the federal government to support efforts to reduce road fatalities, preventing needless deaths and injuries both here at home and around the world. **(Please find attached a copy of the resolution).**

"This is a critically important issue, as millions of people in every corner of the globe are affected by traffic accidents, inadequate public policies, and underdeveloped or neglected transportation infrastructure," said Hastings. "The United States can take the lead in furthering the goals of the Decade of Action declared by the United Nations General Assembly, saving millions of lives and billions of dollars."

The leading cause of death for people ages 5 to 29 is not disease or war but road crashes. Nearly 1.3 million people are killed in road crashes every year and another twenty to fifty million are injured in traffic accidents. On average, over 1,000 people under the age of 25 die every single day on the world's roads. And these numbers are going up dramatically.

"The world cannot afford such needless, heartbreaking losses," further noted Hastings. "In addition to the catastrophic human costs – not only the lives lost but amongst their friends and families as well – road crashes cost the global community over \$518 billion a year, an enormous sum when you consider that many of the countries most plagued by road crashes are underdeveloped or developing nations.

"The global community must build on the initial, important steps already taken to enhance international cooperation to improve road safety."

In November 2009, the Moscow Declaration, signed by 150 countries, encouraged the establishment of a Decade of Action for Road Safety from 2011 to 2020, and laid the foundation for United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/255 adopted in March 2010. This U.N. resolution recognizes that the devastation caused by road crashes negatively impacts the social, economic, and health targets of the Millennium Development Goals and reaffirms the importance of international collaboration during the Decade of Action.

“It is critical that the nations of the world work together to stabilize and reduce traffic fatalities by taking advantage of opportunities at the global, national, regional, and local level,” said Hastings. “The United States can set an example for the rest of the world by improving transportation management, infrastructure, vehicle safety, education, and post-crash care and rehabilitation here at home.

“We must continue to support public policies designed to reduce key risk factors like speeding, drunk driving, distracted driving, and the failure of many Americans to use seat belts, child restraints, and other safety devices.”

**Joining Hastings as original co-sponsors of this resolution are Representatives Chris Van Hollen (MD) and Dan Burton (IN).**

*Congressman Alcee L. Hastings is Vice Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, a senior member of the House Rules Committee, and Co-Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission.*

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 [Decade of Action for Road Safety Resolution xml.pdf](#)